

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating a patient afflicted with a disorder ameliorated by NO donor therapy, said method comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount
5 of an inhibitor of glutathione-dependent formaldehyde dehydrogenase.

2. The method of Claim 1 where the patient is afflicted with a breathing disorder.

3. The method of Claim 2 where the breathing disorder is asthma.

4. The method of Claim 3 where the inhibitor of glutathione-dependent formaldehyde dehydrogenase is D-glutathione.

5. The method of Claim 1 where the patient is afflicted with impotence.

6. The method of Claim 1 where the inhibitor is a competitor for NAD⁺ binding.

7. The method of Claim 1 where the inhibitor is mycophenolic acid.

8. A method for treating a patient afflicted with pathologically proliferating cells, said method comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of an inhibitor of glutathione-dependent formaldehyde dehydrogenase.

9. The method of Claim 8 where the pathologically proliferating cells comprise pathologic bacteria or fungus and the patient is afflicted with a bacterial or fungal infection and the administering kills or reduces the growth of the pathologic bacteria or fungus.

10. The method of Claim 8 where the pathologically proliferating cells are pathologically proliferating mammalian cells and the administering kills or reduces the growth of the pathologically proliferating mammalian cells.

11. The method of Claim 10 wherein the pathologically proliferating mammalian cells are cancer cells.

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein the pathologically proliferating mammalian cells are those in Hodgkin's disease, in small cell lung cancer, in cancer of the breast, in testicular cancer or in prostate cancer.

13. The method of Claim 10 wherein the pathologically proliferating cells are those causing restenosis.

14. The method of Claim 8 wherein the inhibitor is D-glutathione.

15. A method for treating a patient in need of increased nitric oxide bioactivity, said method comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of glutathione-dependent formaldehyde dehydrogenase.

16. The method of Claim 15 where the patient is afflicted with atherosclerosis.

17. The method of Claim 15 where the patient is afflicted with restenosis.

18. The method of Claim 15 where the patient is afflicted with an inflammatory liver disease.

19. The method of Claim 15 where the patient is afflicted with heart failure.

20. The method of Claim 15 where the patient is afflicted with angina or hypertension and the method comprises administering an agent functional for pharmacological delivery of NO or NO related compound concomitantly with inhibitor of glutathione-dependent formaldehyde dehydrogenase, the combination being administered in therapeutically effective amount.